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ON
PIGEONS.

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BOOKING & CARSON,
Veterinarian,
PHILADELPHIA.

COLUMBARIUM;

OR,

THE PIGEON-HOUSE:

BEING

AN INTRODUCTION

TO A

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

TAME PIGEONS,

GIVING AN

ACCOUNT OF THE SEVERAL SPECIES KNOWN IN ENGLAND,
WITH THE METHOD OF BREEDING THEM, THEIR
DISTEMPERS AND CURES.

The two chief advantages which a real acquaintance with Nature brings to our minds, are first, by instructing our understandings and gratifying our curiosities; and next, by exciting and cherishing our devotion.

BOYLE'S EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY, p. 2.

BY JOHN MOORE.

LONDON:

Printed for J. WILFORD, behind the Chapter-House in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

1735.

REPRINTED BY JOS. M. WADE,
FANCIERS' JOURNAL OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, 1874.

P R E F A C E

TO THE FIRST AMERICAN EDITION.

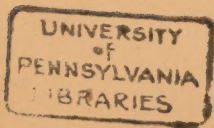
MOORE'S WORK ON PIGEONS was, no doubt, the first, and is really the most important, work ever written on this subject, fanciers of the present day being able to add but little to that which Moore gave us over one hundred years ago. "The work is out of print and very scarce, only two or three copies are known to be in existence at the present time." It has been read by only a favored few on this side of the Atlantic.

For the benefit of the fancy, in May, 1874, we began its publication in the columns of the *Fanciers' Journal*, which circumstance has created a demand for this reprint in book form.

The original work was not illustrated; and, in order to make it more valuable to young fanciers, we have embellished it with a series of illustrations by that well-known artist, Mr. J. W. Ludlow.

JOS. M. WADE.

FANCIERS' JOURNAL OFFICE,
Philadelphia, Pa., 1874.



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DEDICATION.

TO

SIR WILLIAM STAPLETON, BARONET.

SIR: If either Philosophy or Novelty have any allurements, the following performance, I flatter myself, will afford you some entertainment.

Many subjects the naturalists seem to have exhausted. Horses and dogs, and most of the animals that serve for the conveniences or amusements of life, have undergone the nicest inquiries; while the pigeon, that contributes in some measure to both, a domestic as it were of ours, has been totally neglected.

With a partiality usually shown to the victor, the hawk has engaged the pen of many a writer; but his prey, that seems to fly to us for protection, has scarce met with that, which even the wisdom of the legislature has allowed it.

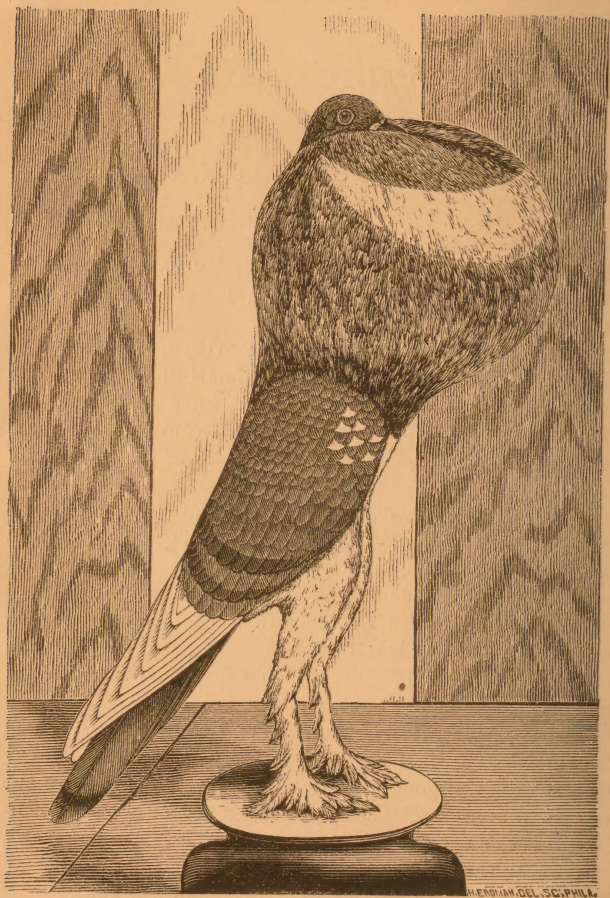
I have endeavored therefore in the following sheets to do some justice to this bird, and have prescribed the best methods, which long experience has furnished me with, for its propagation and preservation.

I have wisely learnt from it to seek a proper refuge against any ill-natured censures. To this purpose I beg leave to prefix your name to this work, and to assure the world that you, who have purchased pigeons at very considerable prices, don't think the subject below your regard, and that the author is,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

J. MOORE.

11 Dec 54 g. Pearson



H. BODIAN DEL. SC. PHILL.

POUTER COCK.

THE PREFACE.

THOUGH the History of Birds in general has been given us by many hands, and in some parts in a very accurate manner, yet the study of this genus of birds seems in a great measure to be neglected by most of our naturalists, who have given us but very short cursory descriptions of some of the species, in which notwithstanding they have been guilty of many great mistakes, and entirely left out many others in their lists. It has amazed me to see so great an indolence on this particular branch spread itself in such an universal manner through all our ornithologists, especially considering the vast opportunities they have had, or might have had, to have given their readers the utmost satisfaction by the most exact and ample descriptions. It is notorious to all mankind, what vast numbers of these birds in all the species have been and are still kept in this kingdom, not only by persons in a lower rank of life, but even by persons of the greatest distinction and the first degrees of quality, who have held these birds in so great esteem, that they have endeavored to attain at least an experimental knowledge of them, purchasing, at a great expense, as many of the distinct sorts as they could hear of, and cultivating them in their own houses. Richard Atherton, Esq., of Atherton Hall, in Lancashire, who was a gentleman both of will and ability to prosecute his fancy in this branch of natural history, was building a stately house in Lancashire, on the top of which he designed to have four turrets, in which his pigeons were to be disposed according to the nearness of relation between

the different species, but death put an end to the undertaking in the year 1726, to the immense grief of all those gentlemen of the Fancy who had the honor of his acquaintance. He was a very complete judge of a pigeon, and would spare neither cost nor trouble to procure the best. He had one pouting cock which he valued at five pound, and a very choice collection of many other kinds. The same methods have been taken in most other countries as well as England, to gain this experimental knowledge, as in Holland, France, Spain, Germany, Turkey, Persia, and Morocco. In the three last of which places, the monarchs themselves have officers, called keepers of the pigeons. Having thus mentioned the King of Morocco, give me leave to entertain you with the following story out of the *Sieur. Mouette* in his travels through that kingdom.

“There was among the other captives in Morocco, one Bernard Bausset, a youth about twenty-five years of age, and one of the family of the Baussets, ancient consuls of Marseilles, and born in the town of Aubaigne in Provence. He had the keeping of the king’s pages’ clothes and arms, and of the stores laid up at the first gate of the seraglio; besides which, he taught two of the king’s children to speak Spanish. That prince having taken a liking to, and desiring to raise him higher than the Christian religion would allow of, he tried all possible means to oblige him to become a Mohammedan, and perceiving he could not prevail by fair means, very often had recourse to severity and ill usage. Being one day highly provoked at his constancy, and laying hold of the pretence of two or three bits of straw he saw lying before him, and of Bausset’s neglecting to cause the way between the two gates of the seraglio to be swept, he caused him to be stripped stark naked, and two blacks, with each of them a handful of leather straps, to give him above five hundred stripes, so that his body was all over as black as a shoe. In this condition, he sent him with two heavy

chains to be cured in our prison, and several days after called for, and asked him, 'why he stayed in the Bitte,' so they call the slaves' prison, 'whilst his meal was stolen?' It seems that day a sack had been taken out of one of the magazines that are near the gate of the seraglio. 'Sir,' said Bausset, 'I stayed there ever since you sent me, and durst not come away without your orders.' Hereupon the king struck at him with a spear, and hurt him under the right eye, and then ordered his guards to cast him into the Lion's Walk: that walk is like a court between four high walls, joining to the castle, and was parted from our Bitte or prison by a wall but three hands in thickness, which the lions once undermined, and had like to have got in to us.

"The youth hearing that sentence pronounced, ran to the ladder that went up to the place, intending to throw himself in, before any other came to do it. The king dismounted from his horse, and went up after, bidding him change his religion, or he should be immediately devoured by the lions. Bausset resolutely answered, 'he was not at all concerned at it, since that was the way to make him happy, for they could take but one life from him, which would end gloriously, and he had rather the lions should devour his body, than that his soul should become a prey to devils.' Hereupon the king drew near the edge of the wall, to cast him down headlong, but Bausset, who observed him narrowly, perceiving his design, leaped himself amidst four lions, of a monstrous size, who had not been fed in three days.

"Those creatures beholding their prey, rose up, and roaring put themselves in a posture to fall on him, whilst he offered up his prayers to heaven. But they, as if withheld by some secret power, presently lay down again. Yet some of them soon after got up and made towards him, and being near passed by without touching him, among the rest, one that was most ravenous came up to him seven times, and passed by as often. Thus the captive, like another Daniel

praised God amidst those fierce creatures, which had not the power to hurt him.

“The king, who withdrew as soon as he fell in, sent twice to see whether he was devoured, and in case he was not, to offer to take him out, if he would turn Mohammedan; but he returned them the same answer he had given to the king himself. We were all at our prayers to implore the divine assistance upon him, and having made some holes through the wall, that parted us from the lions to see, we encouraged him to be resolute and die, rather than renounce his religion, which he zealously promised us.

“In the meanwhile, a Spanish woman captive went to petition the king for Bausset’s deliverance. She was called Mary of the Conception, born at St. Lucar de Barrameda in Andalusia; came to Mamora, to carry home her husband, who was banished, and they were both taken returning into Spain. Having abundance of wit, without the least immodesty, she had gained the king’s affections, who granted her whatsoever favor she asked either for Moors or Christians. She was called the common mother of all persons in distress, for she never thought much to sue for them. Her husband, whose name was John de Cormona, and she, had had the charge of the king’s pigeons, and fed the lions. The king, having a kindness for Bausset, was pleased she should intercede, and gave orders immediately to have him taken out. No sooner had he spoke the word, than all the pages ran, striving who should be foremost, and left the king alone, at the first entrance into the seraglio, which so highly offended him, that he called them back, and laid eight of them on the floor, all bloody and wounded with his scimitar.

“However, when his wrath was appeased, the captive woman redoubled her entreaties so earnestly, that he could not refuse her, but ordered that she should go with her husband and one Prieur, a surgeon of Poitiers, to take Bausset from among the lions, which was accordingly done, when

he had been there five hours, for he leaped in at four, and came out at nine. Some days after, the lions showed not the same respect to three fakirs or doctors of the law of Mohammed, who took upon them to reprove the king for his cruelty, and were therefore cast into the same place, and immediately torn in pieces by the lions."

This story was well attested, brought to Paris, and put into the hands of the reverend fathers, the mercenarians of Paris, to satisfy such as may call the truth of it in question. However, I had not made use of this story, only as it shows that even kings have been proud to confer the greatest favors upon those who were no more than the keepers of their pigeons. Thus we see how the knowledge of these birds has been propagated and encouraged in most parts of the world at a very great expense, while every observer had still this natural history to obtain in the same experimental and costly way, and was often grossly imposed upon by having a mixed strain put into his hands instead of the real species; yet, notwithstanding all this, and the ease wherewith it might have been accomplished, I find an almost profound silence among the naturalists upon this head.

I have, therefore, ventured first to launch forth into this new science, not being insensible that I shall leave much room for others to make great improvements, if any shall hereafter think it worth their while to follow that track which I have only pointed out to them; and I hope the learned world know how to make allowances for a first attempt in the advancement of any kind of knowledge. I am very sensible that proper icons are of very great service to illustrate a work of this nature, but this piece being in its kind new, and not being able to guess at what reception it may meet with from the world, I knew the expenses of exact cuts would swell the price too high for many that may have a mind to purchase this work; and, on the contrary, that if they are not delineated with the utmost accuracy, according

to their various characteristics, they only puzzle the mind, and render the description of them more obscure, and therefore I chose rather to have none than bad ones.

In the sequel of this work, I have endeavored as near as possible to give exact criterions for the knowledge of each distinct species; and being aware that bare descriptions are often tedious and irksome, I have sometimes endeavored to relax the mind by throwing in some diverting parts of history, which, though not altogether necessary to the main purport of the treatise, will I hope answer the end for which they were designed.

Being well assured that this book will fall into the hands of many of the illiterate part of mankind, who are altogether ignorant of the terms of art, and even in the meaning of many words of more frequent use among the politer part, I have, for the sake of such, added an alphabetical explanation of the less common words made use of in this treatise.

So hoping it will have the desired effect of pushing on some abler pen, I commit it at once to the candid censure of mankind.

COLUMBARIUM; OR, THE PIGEON-HOUSE.

THE INTRODUCTION.

ZOOLOGY, or the History of Animals, has been a task in all ages deemed worthy the consideration of the best and ablest philosophers, and many branches of this useful history have been handed down to us from them in an elegant and instructive manner, showing us the beauty and wisdom of Providence and our great Creator in the formation of such an almost infinite variety of creatures, and raising our thoughts to the sublimest notions of that tremendous Being, whose almighty fiat gave them birth; at the same time teaching us to adore his bounty and goodness in making mankind their superior, and submitting them all to his use. The contemplation of God in his creatures sets us such a lesson of humility as ought to make the proud man blush, and humbly prostrate himself before the throne of that omnipotent invisible Deity, whose hand supports him in common with the brute creation.

I could wish some abler pen had undertook the work now before me, but having examined most of the writers on these subjects, and finding in them either no account at all, or else a very imperfect and superficial one, which, for want of a due opportunity to examine the bird they were describing, they have generally taken up at random and upon credit, I thought it in some measure incumbent upon me to attempt a natural history of this kind, partly as having in my own

house most of the sorts to be described, and partly to provoke other gentlemen, who have more skill and ability, to rescue this part of the history of animals from that obscurity it has so long labored under.

In order therefore to render this treatise (which has been so long due from one part of my countrymen, I mean the naturalists, and so long desired by another), as complete as possible, I shall divide this book into two parts. In the first I shall treat of the method of keeping, breeding, and preserving of pigeons; and in the second I shall give an account of the different sorts, endeavoring to clear up all obscurities, and render the knowledge and distinction of the several species facile to all those who either do or may hereafter delight in the contemplation of this innocent part of the creation; that by comparing any bird with the characteristics here given, they may be able to determine not only the species itself, but to form a tolerable judgment whether it be of the better sort or not; and to this end I have not only examined those birds of each sort which I keep myself, but have had recourse to, and consulted most of the oldest and most experienced persons that kept pigeons and delighted in this fancy.

But not to detain you any longer with the introduction, I shall, in the first place; give an account in what manner to build your loft.

THE METHOD OF BUILDING A LOFT.

A pigeon-loft ought to be built to the south or southwest, the sun lying warmest on them from those quarters; but if you have not that convenience, you may make a hole in the roof of your house, and there lay your platform, smaller or larger as you think proper. A carpenter that is used to such work will put you in a method, always remembering to erect

proper works to keep off those tormentors of the gentlemen of the Fancy,—the cats, for in one night's time they will make a very great havoc, and are generally observed to destroy those pigeons which you most value; so that 'tis better to be at some charge first, to prevent the incursions of such dangerous and fatal invaders, who seldom or never give any quarters.

Let your loft be large enough to contain the number of pigeons you intend to keep, always allowing at least two holes or breeding-places for every pair; for the more room they have, the more quiet they will sit, and breed the better. I once knew a gentleman who could not raise three young ones out of nine pair of breeding pigeons all the spring, and for above three months after, only by keeping them straitened in too narrow a compass; whereas, about the latter end of August, or beginning of September, he moved them into a larger loft, and the same pigeons bred well, even then, and through the most part of the winter. The reason of this inconvenience is this: salacious cocks will often be playing to and disturbing the others as they sit; and others who want room to sit will fight for nests, and by this means destroy both eggs and young ones.

To make your breeding-places, you may erect shelves of about fourteen inches broad, allowing eighteen inches betwixt shelf and shelf, for otherwise your tall Pouters, by being forced to crouch for want of height, will get a habit of playing low, and spoil their carriage. In these shelves erect partitions at about the distance of three feet, fixing a blind by a board nailed against the front, on each side of every partition; by this means you will have two nests in the length of every three feet, and your pigeons will sit dark and private. You may, if you please, fix a partition between each nest, to prevent the young ones from running to the hen when sitting at the other end and cooling her eggs; for in breeding-time, when the young ones are about three weeks

old, the hen, if a good breeder, will lay again, and leave the cock to take care of and bring up the young ones.

In every nest you must put a straw basket, or earthen pan, both which are made and adapted to this very purpose ; for besides that by this means the eggs are prevented from rolling out of the nest, you need never handle your young pigeons, if you have a mind to look on them, which often puts them into a scouring. Some like the basket best, as judging it warmest, and not so liable to crack the egg when first laid ; others are for the pan, as not so apt to harbor vermin, and say that the foregoing inconveniences are easily remedied by giving them a sufficient quantity of clean straw or frail. The frail is most valued because it lies hollow, and will last a great while, for, when your young ones have left their nest, 'tis but taking hold of the ends of the frail and the dung will shake off it, and the frail be as fit for use as before.

As for your trap or aviary, it is always built on a platform or floor of deals, on the outside of your house, that your pigeons may have free passage into it. It is formed of laths nailed so close together that the smallest pigeon can't make its escape through it. Some build these very small, with three doors, one on each side, which all draw up together by pulling a single string, intending chiefly to catch stray pigeons, whom they decoy into it, by strewing hempseed, or rape, and canary, which all pigeons are very fond of. Others build them very wide and lofty, so that four or five persons may conveniently stand in them together, with a shelf or two on every side, designing them to give room and air to pigeons of the homing sort, which they are obliged to keep confined ; this practice is of very great use, by keeping such prisoners in a good state of health.

In order to complete your loft, you must furnish it with proper meat-boxes, and bottles and stands for water.

Your meat-box ought to be formed in the shape of a

hopper, as a reservoir for their food. It must be covered over on the top, to prevent them from dunging among the grain; from hence the meat descends into a square shallow box, fenced in with rails or holes on each side, to keep them from flirting the grain over on the floor amongst their own dung.

Your water-bottle should be a large glass bottle, with a long neck, holding three or four gallons, and its belly made in the form of an egg to keep them from dunging on it. This bottle should be set upon a stand or three-footed stool, made hollow at top to receive the belly, and let the mouth into a small pan; your water will by this means gradually descend out of the mouth of the bottle, as your pigeons drink it, and be sweet and clean, and always stop when the surface of the water meets with the mouth of the bottle.

The reason of which is this: the belly of the bottle being entirely close at top, keeps off all the external pressure of the atmosphere, which, pressing hard upon the surface of the water in the pan which is contiguous to that in the bottle, is too potent for the small quantity of air which is conveyed into the belly of the bottle with the water, and which consequently, as being the lighter matter, rises to the top of the bottle as it stands in its proper situation; but the water being sucked away by your pigeons, that it no longer touches the mouth of the bottle, the confined air exerts its power, and causes the water to descend till they become contiguous as before.

THE METHOD OF MATCHING OR PAIRING YOUR PIGEONS.

Your loft being thus finished and equipped, my next instructions shall be, how to match or pair your pigeons together; and here we must observe, that though they are very constant when mated to each other, seldom or never

suing a divorce, except when either of them grow sick or very old, yet it is sometimes very difficult to make them couple to your liking.

The best way therefore to effect what you desire on this head, is to erect two coops, usually called by the fanciers matching-places, close together ; let the partition between be made of lath, that they may see each other, and you may easily contrive it so that they may both eat and drink out of the same vessels ; feed them often with hempseed, which will make them salacious, and when you observe the hen to sweep her tail and show to the cock, as he plays in the other pen, you may then put her in to him, and they will soon be matched.

But if, for want of this convenience, you are obliged at first to put them both into one coop, always put the cock in first, for three or four days or a week, and let him get master of the place, especially if the hen be a virago, or else they will fight so much as perhaps may settle in them an absolute aversion forever after ; but if the cock be first master of the house he will beat the hen, if obstinate, into compliance.

Your pigeons being thus matched, turn them loose into your loft, and let them choose what nest they best like ; or, if you have a mind to fix them to any particular nest, you may effect it in this manner : make a lath machine, the length of your breeding-places, closed in at top and bottom with boards, and projecting out as far as your loft will conveniently allow ; one of your top boards must lift up with hinges, in order to put in meat and water ; this you may hang before any hole, and put your pigeons in it, and when they have been five or six days used to the nest, take it away—in the night is the best time—and they will keep to that nest.

The same method may be used, and is very good, to prevent your strain being adulterated by a false tread, which an over salacious hen will often submit to. Therefore keep them up by this method till the hen has laid both her eggs,

then take it away and give them their liberty, till the hen has fed off her soft meat, then the hen will begin to be salacious again, therefore at that time confine them as before, and you are sure to keep your strain pure and entire. This method is somewhat troublesome, and therefore not worth using but for your best pigeons; as for those who breed for the dish, 'tis no matter whether they are bastardized or not.

TO KNOW A COCK FROM A HEN.

Having thus informed you how to mate or pair your pigeons, I shall next give you some instructions how to form a tolerable judgment whether a pigeon be cock or hen, for in this point the best and oldest fanciers have been sometimes deceived; for this purpose, therefore, take the following rules:

The hen has generally a shorter breastbone than the cock.

Her vent, and the os sacrum, or bone near the vent, is more open than in the cock.

Her head and cheeks are thinner, and she does not look so bold as the cock.

Her coo is shorter, and nothing near so loud and masculine as the cock's; besides, the cock frequently makes a half-round in his playing, which the hen does not, though a merry rank hen will sometimes show and play almost like a cock, and, if very salacious, will sometimes tread another pigeon.

And lastly, in young pigeons, that which squeaks longest in the nest is generally reputed a hen.

THE GENERATION OF PIGEONS.

We now come to treat of the generation of this bird, that is, the method it makes use of for propagation of its species; and here I must acknowledge myself obliged to Dr. Harvey in his excellent treatise of the generation of animals.

All animals therefore are distinguished into three sorts: oviparous, or such as are formed from an egg; viviparous, or such as are produced from the uterus alive and in perfection; and vermiparous, or such as are formed from a worm. Though in fact the fœtus of all kinds of animals is produced from an egg; the only reason therefore of this distinction is, that in some animals this egg (if I may be allowed the phrase), is hatched, or brought to perfection in the uterus; whereas all of the feathered kind emit or lay this egg, and produce their young from it by incubation.

The pigeon, therefore, is an oviparous bird. I call it a bird because all that belong to this genus feed their young ones for some considerable time after they are hatched; whereas the young ones of the fowl kind will search for their own food, and eat it themselves almost as soon as they are discharged from the shell of that egg in which they were produced.

It will not here be amiss to give some account of the production of the egg. Nature produces in the ovary, or upper matrix of the hen or female bird, a great cluster of small yolks, sticking together like a bunch of grapes, which from this similitude Dr. Harvey calls a vitellary, and adds that in pigeons he has observed this cluster of eggs to be all of a like magnitude, excepting only two which were larger than the rest, and were now ready to descend into the lower uterus or womb.

The cock in the act of coition impregnates these eggs, and by a wonderful operation of nature renders them prolific. We shall not take upon us here to determine the method by which this is performed, but shall content ourselves with observing that there is a spot at each end of the egg, called by the learned, *chalazæ*, from the resemblance of a small hailstone, and, vulgarly, the cock's treadles; these, by a mistake, have been accounted to proceed from the emission of the male, and to contain the plastic virtue of the fœtus,

but experience has abundantly proved that these treadles are to be found in all eggs, whether they are prolific and fruitful or subventaneous and addle.

It is the opinion of most, and that not without great probability, that all the eggs a hen will ever lay are contained in this vitellary or cluster, and that as soon as this number is exhausted she will become effete or barren. Some people therefore to abuse mankind, and vend a useless bird, will oil the vent of a barren hen and force an egg into it, to make you believe she is not effete; if you happen to be thus imposed on, that you may not lose your seasons of breeding, by keeping such a hen matched to a good cock, we shall give a method to prove whether she be effete or not. When the cock drives her hard to nest, give her a pair of eggs, and let her hatch them and bring up; pursue this method for two or three pair, if you value her, and if she be not barren this, and cross-matching her, that is, pairing her to another cock, will effectually bring her to laying.

Before we leave this head, we cannot omit mentioning the dalliances made use of by this bird before coition, which are in a manner endearing and peculiar only to them. And here the cock when salacious will, by a voice at that time peculiarly harmonious, and by several pretty, and as we may call them foppish gestures, woo the female, and endeavor to incline her to his embraces; she, if consenting, will soon show it by her motions, as sweeping her tail, spreading her wings, and giving a nod with her head, as much as to say, Good sir, you may if you please; from thence they proceed to billing, in which action the hen will put her beak into the cock's, who seems to feed her, after this she will squat and readily receive his tread.

Your hen by this means being rendered prolific, they will seek out a nest, or convenient place, for the repository of their eggs, into which they will carry straw, frail, feathers, and such other materials as they find proper to form a warm

and soft reception for the egg, neither party being at this time idle, though some are more industrious than others, on this account, who will lay their eggs almost on the bare boards.

When a hen is nigh the time of her laying, her mate will pursue her from place to place, not suffering her to be quiet in any place but her nest, out of a peculiar instinct, I suppose, fearing his offspring should be lost, by her dropping her egg in some place improper for incubation. And here you must observe that some cocks are so very hot that they won't, at such a time, suffer a hen almost to eat; this will render her very weak, and often make her lay a thin-shelled or imperfect egg; to prevent this inconvenience, the best way is to take the cock from her, till the egg become to a greater perfection in the uterus.

Pigeons though they will make a great increase in a year, yet it is not from the number of eggs they lay at one time, for they lay but two, and then immediately proceed to incubation, but from the frequency of the repeated hatchings, which generally happen once in five or six weeks, according as they are good or bad breeders.

When a pigeon has laid her first egg, she rests one day between, and on the succeeding day lays her second; they generally stand over the first egg, which, if you please, you may call an improper incubation, till the next is laid, and then sit close, that both young ones may be hatched at once, or pretty nearly, though some will sit close on the first, and by that means hatch one young one two days before the other.

The time of a pigeon's incubation, which trouble is equally divided between the cock and hen, except that the hen always sits at night, is nineteen or twenty days from the first egg, and seventeen or eighteen from the last, at which time you ought to observe whether the eggs are hatched or not, for two special reasons :

First. Because your young ones, for want of due heat, which often happens if the old do not sit close, may want strength to extricate themselves out of the shell, and so die in it for want of air and proper sustenance, for the nutriment they received from the internal part of the egg is by this time exhausted; whenever therefore an affair of this nature happens, if the egg be chipped or cracked with the force of the young one, break the shell all round with your nail, or the head of a pin, and you will find your account in it.

Secondly. If your pigeons do not hatch because their eggs are addle, or otherwise, you ought to give them a pair, or at least one young one to feed off their moist meat, which would else make them sick, and they will be apt to lay again too soon, which will weaken them very much.

The young ones being thus ushered into the world, naturally leads us to take a view of the manner in which it receives its first sustenance. We have already mentioned soft meat, which is nothing else but a fine soft liquid pap prepared as it were by instinct by the parents, by a dissolution of the hard grains in their craw, against the time that the foetus is first disclosed, when weak, naked, and helpless; this soft meat they throw up out of their craw, taking the beak of their young ones in their own, and by this means injecting it into theirs; with this meat they continue feeding them for six or seven days, when they begin to mix some harder food amongst it, until at length they feed them with all whole grain.

THEIR DIET.

We come now to treat of their diet, or the food proper for pigeons. The pigeon is a granivorous bird, and may be fed with various sorts of grains, as tares, horse-beans, pease, wheat, barley, hempseed, or rape and canary, of each of which in their order.

Of all grains, tares are found to be most adapted to these birds, and old tares are much the best, for the new are very apt to set your pigeons into a scouring, especially the young ones ; the same will likewise happen from old tares, if they have by any means been touched or immersed in salt or sea-water ; for though pigeons love salt, yet too much is very pernicious, as, for instance, if in a voyage you give them salt water instead of fresh you will soon kill them.

Horse-beans are the next food to tares, but you must take care to get them as small as possible. There are a sort which they call small French ticks, which are good food, and somewhat cheaper than tares, but liable to two inconveniences : first, they are much harder of digestion, and consequently will not so readily make soft meat for the young ones ; secondly, your pigeons are sometimes apt to be choked with them, especially young ones, and such whose œsophagus or gullet is anyways inclinable to be small, as in most long-necked pigeons it is. I had a Carrier the other day which fell down off my house into the yard, and when it was taken up (I not being at home), it gaped, as I was informed, as if for want of breath, and died in a few minutes. It was very fat, and seemingly in good health. I opened it to see if I could find any cause from within, but all its internals seemed perfectly sound and in good order ; at last, examining more strictly, I found a horse-bean, and that not a very large one, sticking in the lower part of the gullet, which, with some little difficulty, I pulled out ; and this, I verily believe, was the only cause of its death.

Pease, wheat, and barley are apt to scour your pigeons too much, therefore you ought to give them very little, if any, of this sort of food.

There is a sort of diet called Scotch meat, which is pease, beans, and tares mixed together ; some people feed their pigeons with this, because cheap, but the beans are generally apt to be too large.

Hempseed, rape, and canary are food that pigeons are very fond of, but by no means ought to be made their constant diet.

N.B.—Even French tick beans are not proper for Dutch Croppers, or any large Cropt pigeons, because they are apt to make them gorge.

THE SALT CAT.

Being thus entered on the head of diet, it necessarily leads us to consider a certain useful composition called by the Fanciers a salt cat, so named, I suppose, from a certain fabulous oral tradition of baking a cat in the time of her salaciousness with cummin seed, and some other ingredients, as a decoy for your neighbor's pigeons; this, though handed down by some authors as the only method for this purpose, is generally laughed at by the gentlemen of the Fancy, and never practiced.

The right salt cat therefore is, or ought to be, thus made: Take gravel or drift-sand, loam, such as the brickmakers use, and the rubbish of an old wall, or for want of this a less quantity of lime,—let there be a gallon of each; add to these a pound of cummin seed, a handful of bay salt or saltpetre, and beat them all up together into a kind of mortar, mixing them up with stale urine, and your pigeons will take great delight in it.

The gravel or sand helps to scour their craws, and is of great service to digestion.

The loam being of an unctuous, oily nature, is a very great assistance to them in the discharge of their soft meat, or other meat when they are feeding young ones.

The lime or rubbish helps to harden the shell of their egg; and you will find by experience, that when with egg they are prodigiously fond of lime, and will have it some way or other, if possible. By this means therefore you keep them

from pecking the mortar off your own or your neighbors' houses, though the damage from thence accruing cannot but be very trifling, for the whole length of their beak, and farther they cannot go, cannot reach far enough to loosen any tile that is naturally firm.

The salt and urine is a great provocation to drink, and this is no small service to your pigeons, which are of a very hot nature.

The cummin seed, which has a strong smell in which pigeons delight, will keep your own pigeons at home, and allure others that are straying about, and at a loss where to fix upon a habitation.

The best way is to put your salt cat in jars, with holes in the sides for them to peck it out, and a cork at top to prevent their dunging on it, and to keep off the rain, or any other contingencies if exposed to the weather.

DISTEMPERS OF PIGEONS.

We come now to treat of the several distempers incident to birds of this kind, and to prescribe the various remedies generally made use of in their cure.

1. The first disease therefore that we shall take notice of is the corruption of the egg in the uterus. This generally proceeds from an unmatched hen being over salacious, by reason of high feeding, or some other cause, who will often without the coition of the male engender eggs, but seldom without his concurrence either perfect them or bring them forth, so that they will corrupt in the womb; the only remedy for this is to put her to a cock in time.

2. The wet roup next falls under our consideration, and in this case, once in two or three days give them three or four peppercorns at most, and put a handful of green rue in their water; you may let all your pigeons drink of it, for it is very healthful.

3. The dry roup, which you generally distinguish by a husky cough, and I am apt to believe proceeds from a cold, to which they are very liable, especially in moulting time; to cure this, give them every day three or four cloves of garlic.

4. The next distemper that falls under our cognizance is the canker, which proceeds mostly from the cocks fighting and pecking each other, though some people have assured me that giving them water in a tin vessel will likewise throw them into this disease. The method of cure is this: Take burnt alum and honey and rub the part affected every day, and it will cure it; but if this happens not to take effect, dissolve five grains of Roman vitriol in half a spoonful of wine vinegar, add it to the former composition, and rub the part affected. Some people will take off the scurf and make it bleed before they apply the remedy, but I am apt to believe you will generally find it searching enough without.

5. If the wattles or flesh round the eyes of the Carrier, Horseman, or Barb are pecked and torn, wash them first with stale urine for several days; if this does not do, dissolve two drachms of alum in an ounce and a half of water, and wash the part grieved; but if the case be very stubborn, mix twenty grains of red precipitate with half an ounce of honey, anoint the part therewith, and it will certainly effect the cure.

6. Pigeons, especially in the summer season, are apt to be troubled with small insects, which the Fanciers term lice; in this case smoke their feathers well with the smoke of tobacco, and it will infallibly kill them.

7. There is another sort of small vermin which are very troublesome, and will often kill your young ones in the nest by creeping into their ears, &c., especially when first hatched, and always prevent their thriving; to hinder this, strew tobacco dust in the nest, and over your young pigeons, and it will destroy these vermin, which are called pigeons' bugs by some, and by others the blacks.

8. Another disease to which they are subject is gizzard-falling, that is, the gizzard falls down to the vent. The gentlemen of the Fancy say it proceeds from weakness, though I rather believe it is caused by feeding with too much hemp-seed. I know no cure for this malady unless nature herself works one, which it sometimes will in young pigeons.

9. The next distemper is what the Fancy calls navel-fallen; in this case there is a kind of bag hanging down near the vent. This malady is generally desperate, and if giving them clary, or some other strengthening things, won't cure them, I know nothing that will.

10. Pigeons are liable to be pap-arsed, as the Fancy call it. This distemper proceeds either from a natural innate weakness, or from a cock's being too salacious and treading his hen too often. I know no cure for it, except flying will do it. Young pigeons and Carriers are most subject to it, especially if not flown.

11. Some pigeons, as Croppers and Pouters, are apt to gorge themselves; that is, when they have been too long from grain, they will eat so much that they cannot digest it, but it will lie and corrupt in the crop, and kill the pigeon. If this therefore at any time happens, take the following method:

Put them in a strait-stocking, with their feet downward, stroking up the crop, that the bag which contains the meat may not hang down; then hang the stocking upon a nail, keeping them in this manner till they have digested their food, only not forgetting to give them now and then a little water, and it will often cure them; but when you take them out of the stocking put them in an open basket or coop, giving them but a little meat at a time, or else they will be apt to gorge again.

If this does not effect the cure, you may slit the crop from the bottom with a penknife or sharp pair of scissors, take out the corrupted meat, wash the crop, and then sew it up

again. This method has been practiced with some success, though the crop will not be so round as before.

Others will tie that part of the crop, in which the undigested meat lies, tight round with a string, and let it rot off. This method never fails, though it spoils the shape of the crop.

12. The next and most fatal distemper incident to this kind of bird is the vertigo, or (as generally styled by the Fancy) the megrims. In this disease the pigeon reverts or turns its head in such a manner that the beak will lie on its back, and will flutter and fly about at random. This distemper is usually reckoned incurable, and indeed it too often proves so; though I once had a Turbit, of the owl kind, taken with it in a violent manner. Some gentlemen seeing it, advised me to pull the head off. I told them I would first try if I could not cure it, which they asserted to be impossible; however, I took about a quarter of a pint of water, an ounce and a half of spirit of lavender, one drachm of spirit of sal ammoniac distilled with quicklime; these I mingled together, then I tasted it, and found it too strong for the bird, and therefore added a little more water. I believe in three or four hours I poured down its throat, at three or four times, a spoonful and a half of this mixture, for I had rather it should die than live in that condition; at last it began to discharge a white slimy substance upwards and downwards, but did not care to feed that day. The next day I found it better, but still it would hold its head on one side or awry. This medicine I gave it every third or fourth day, still lessening the quantity; I gave it garlic the days betwixt, and sometimes two or three peppercorns, till perfectly recovered. I am not certain whether this pigeon ever bred afterwards or no.

13. If your pigeons do not molt off kindly, or stop in their molting, so that they don't throw their feathers well, it is a certain sign of an ill state of health; to remedy this, the following method will be of use:

Pluck their tail feathers out, and put them up in some warm place, allowing them a larger portion of hempseed with their ordinary food; a little saffron, or clary, steeped in their water, is likewise very beneficial; some will give them elderberries or cochineal for that purpose.

14. Your pigeons likewise, especially in molting time, will be subject to scouring, which keeps them very poor, low, and out of flesh. To cure this, give them pump-water, with a lump of chalk in it, or put about the quantity of two horse-beans down their throats every day; if that don't effect the desired end, give them some smiths' forge water down their throats, which is very binding. A gentleman told me that having been informed that gravel was good for his pigeons, he gave them some of the grit that is left in the trough under a grindstone, where they ground edge tools, and it bound them so much that it killed most of them; a little of this may therefore be good in case of scouring.

15. There is another distemper which is called the small-pox, in which there rise, on their legs and wings and body, eruptions or pustules full of a yellow matter. Some open them, and apply burnt alum and honey, or touch them with Roman vitriol, and it will cure them.

16. When your pigeons are sick, lowering, or hang their wings, give them every day a spider or two, wrapped up in butter, and, if you dare trust them, let them fly.

17. Pigeons will be sometimes lamed, and the ball of their foot swelled, either through cold, or the prick of a nail; in this case, spread some Venice turpentine on brown paper, apply it to the part, leave it there till well, which it will be in a very few days.

18. The flesh-wen comes next under our consideration, which is no more but a fleshy tumor, arising on the joints of the wings or legs; this may be either cut off or opened, and, after having taken out the kernel, wash it with alum-water.

19. The bone-wen is an ossificated tumor, arising upon the joints as before. This is seldom or never cured, and the pigeon that is affected with it will never breed. Some pretend to cure it by a composition of quicklime and black soap; but if you make it too strong, or let it lie on too long, it will take off the leg or other part that 'tis applied to, for it is a caustic.

20. The last distemper I shall take notice of is a core, so called because it resembles the core of an apple. It is hard, and generally of a yellowish color, intermixed with red, and is usually found in the anus or vent. This when ripe may be forced or drawn out; and, in order to ripen it and keep them loose, give your pigeon so affected a purge of tobacco; a very small quantity is sufficient; I have known this make them discharge the core themselves. I once knew a pigeon affected with this sort of malady in the œsophagus or throat; some part was taken out, but the bird died.

THEIR USEFULNESS.

Having thus instructed you how to breed, preserve, and cure your pigeons, we shall next show their usefulness in human life.

It is a bird well known to be much used by way of food; and here I shall give you the remarks of one or two authors on this head. Mr. Lemery, in his "Treatise on Foods," after having advised to the choice of young pigeons that are tender, fleshy, and well fed, proceeds thus: "They are nourishing, somewhat binding, strengthening, and provoke urine; they are looked upon to be good for cleansing the reins, and to expel the gross matters that stick there.

"As a pigeon grows old, so proportionably does its flesh become drier and more solid, harder of digestion, and so fit to produce gross and melancholy humors; and hence it is that some authors have condemned the use of pigeons, and look upon them to be bad food.

“They agree at all times with any age and constitution, but those that are melancholy ought to make use of them more moderately than other persons.”

Dr. Salmon, in his “*Sepladium or English Physician*,” which I look upon as the best book he ever wrote, says: “The flesh is not so easy of digestion as that of chickens. Authors say that eating of their flesh is profitable against the plague, insomuch that they who make it their constant or ordinary food are seldom seized with pestilential distempers. Others commend it against the palsy or trembling. Others say it is of great use and advantage to them that are dim-sighted. The flesh of young pigeons is restorative, and of good use to such as are in consumptions, and to recruit the strength of such as are getting up, or newly recovered from some great sickness. It is indeed savory and good food, and not much inferior to the most esteemed. The anus of a live pigeon applied to the biting of a serpent, viper, or rattlesnake, draws away the poison and cures the sick, being renewed as often as the pigeon dies; applied to the soles of the feet in a fever, it draws away the fever, and helps the megrims or headache. Cut up alive and applied to the place pained, eases the pain and draws away the malignity, if any be; for the vital spirit yet remaining in the hot flesh and blood do insinuate themselves through the pores of the skin into the blood of the sick person now dispirited and ready to stagnate, enduing it with new life and vigor. Potestates made of the flesh admirably cure consumptions, and restore wasted flesh.

“The blood put warm into the eyes allays pain, cures blear eyes, and also green wounds.

“*R.* Of the blood $\mathfrak{z}$ ij, honey $\mathfrak{z}$ vj, white sugar-candy $\mathfrak{z}$ ij; grind them together till they are well mixed, for the purposes aforesaid; as also against suffusions, blood-shots, and other distempers and weaknesses of the eyes.

“The coats of the stomach. *R.* Of them powdered $\mathfrak{z}$ ij,

opium in fine powder 4 grains, catechu in fine powder ʒij; mix them. Dose: 12 or 13 grains every night on going to bed."

The Doctor has left us in the dark what distemper this medicine is designed to cure, but I am apt to believe it is for a diarrhœa, yet I can't see of what use the coats of pigeons' stomachs can be, unless from their diuretic quality.

"The feathers. R. Of the ashes of them ʒss., sanguis draconis, fine bole, sheeps' blood dried, fine aloes, ana ʒj; mix them. It stops bleeding in any part being applied."

THEIR DUNG.

Having thus shown you something of the usefulness of this bird, both in food and physic, I cannot omit saying something of its most excrementitious part.

The dung therefore of pigeons challengeth the priority, not only of the dung of fowls, but of all other creatures whatsoever, on the account of its usefulness in human life.

Its benefits in agriculture are so well known to some farmers, that Plat gives an account of those that have fetched it sixteen miles, and given a load of coals in lieu of it. "Where," he observes, "that in the place it was fetched from it would have done more hurt than good, whereas, where it was carried, it did as much good as double the charges; in the one soil it cured the barrenness, whereas in the other it would have poisoned the fertility."

It is of a very hot nature, from the nitrous quality where-with it is endued, and therefore it is a very excellent soil for a cold, moist-natured ground. It is generally used for wheat and barley that lie afar off, and not easily to be helped. One load of it is worth ten load of other dung, and will go as far in manuring of land. It is generally sown after the same manner as the grain, and harrowed in with it.

It is likewise extraordinary good soil for a hop garden.

Tanners make use of it in tanning the upper leathers, and

if you pick and sift it, will give you eightpence a bushel for it, provided you send it home to their own houses; so that this article and the young squabs will nearly, if not quite, maintain your pigeons in food, provided you buy it at the best hand, and take care to keep them clean.

Dr. Salmon, in his treatise before mentioned, gives us the following account of its usefulness in medicine.

"It is," says he, "of common use in cataplasms or plasters which rubify or draw strongly. Beaten, sifted, and mixed with watercress seeds, it is good against chronic diseases, such as the gout, megrim, vertigo, cephalæo, pains in the side, colic, apoplexies, lethargies, &c."

After this he gives us several recipes in which the dung of pigeons is a main ingredient, as:

"1. R. Of the dung in powder ℥iv, barley-meal or flower ℥iij, vinegar q. s.; mix them to make a cataplasm against scrofulous and other like hard tumors.

"2. R. Of the powder of the dung ℥ij, bears' grease ℥iv, pepper in powder ℥j, oil of cummin seed ℥ss.; mix them for an oil against baldness.

"3. R. Of the dung in powder ℥iv, black soap ℥iij, oil of amber ℥j, Mithridate ℥ij; mix them for a cataplasm to ripen a plague sore.

"4. R. Of the powder of the dung ℥j, powder of winter cherries ℥ss., Cromwell seed ℥ij; mix them and make a powder against the stone. Dose: from ℥ss. to ℥j."

This dung is used likewise in saltpetre beds, and is of very great advantage in the nourishing and production of it; and till the days of Oliver Cromwell we had no saltpetre brought from abroad, but it was made at home from a mixture of pigeons' dung, fowls' dung, hogs' dung, fat earth, and lime, which with another ingredient will form saltpetre, only it must be kept covered with a shed, to prevent or keep off the rain, that it may only mix with the nitrous quality of the air; and therefore when this commodity is very dear, as it

often has been, and may be again, the saltpetre men produce it after this manner to this very day, by throwing in the scum or refuse of their saltpetre amongst it.

Thus we have shown the various uses even of the most disesteemed and excrementitious part; but before we leave this head, we cannot forbear mentioning the following story out of Tavernier, in the fourth book of his first volume of "Persian Travels," page 146.

Says he, speaking of the people of Ispahan, "As for their pigeons, they fly wild about the country, but only some which they keep tame in the city to decoy the rest, which is a sport the Persians use in hot weather as well as cold. Now in regard the Christians are not permitted to keep pigeons, some of the vulgar sort will turn to Mohammedans to have that liberty. There are above three thousand pigeon-houses in Ispahan, for every man may build a pigeon-house upon his own farm, which yet is very rarely done; all the other pigeon-houses belong to the king, who draws a greater revenue from the dung than from the pigeons, which dung, as they prepare it, serves to smoke their melons."

COLUMBA TABELLARIA.

The Carrier Pigeon.

The Carrier is larger in size than most of the common sorts of pigeons. I measured one the other day whose length, from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail, was fifteen inches; this, though not one of the largest, weighed nearly twenty ounces. Their flesh is naturally firm, and their feathers close when they stand erect upon their legs, their necks being usually long; there appears in them a wonderful symmetry of shape beyond other pigeons, which are generally crowded on heaps.

The upper chap of the bill is half covered from the head with a naked, white, tuberos, furfuraceous flesh, which

projects or hangs over both its sides on the upper part nearest the head, and ends in a point about the middle of the bill ; this is called the wattle, and is sometimes joined by two small excrescences of the same kind on each side of the under chap.

This flesh is in some Carriers more inclinable to a blackish color, which is generally the more valued.

The eyes, whose iris, or circle round the black pupil, is generally of the color of a reddish gravel, are equally surrounded with the same sort of furfuraceous matter, for about



CARRIERS.

the breadth of a shilling ; this is generally thin when it spreads wide, and is most valued ; yet when the flesh round the eye is thick and broad, it shows the Carriers to be of a good blood that will breed very stout ones.

This bird is often esteemed, by the gentlemen of the Fancy, as the king of pigeons, on account of its beauty and great sagacity ; for which reason Mr. Hickman, a distiller in Bishopsgate Street (not of the family of the lying Hick-

mans), when living, always kept a silver hatchet and block on which he decently chopped off their heads, alleging that, being of the blood royal, they ought not to die after the same manner as the vulgar herd.

A Carrier is generally reckoned to have twelve properties, viz. :

Three in the beak;
Three in the wattle;
Three in the head;
Three in the eye.

To begin therefore with the first; the properties of the beak are to be long, straight, and thick.

As to its length, an inch and a half is reckoned a long beak, though there are very good Carriers that are found not to exceed an inch and a quarter.

The straightness of the beak adds a wonderful beauty to its length, and if otherwise it is said to be hooked-beaked and is not so much esteemed.

The thickness of the beak is likewise a very great commendation, and if it fails in this point it is said to be spindle-beaked, which diminishes something of its value.

The next three properties are those of the wattle, which ought to be broad across the beak, short from the head towards the apex or point of the bill, and tilting forward from the head, for if otherwise it is said to be peg-wattled, which is very much disesteemed; and therefore some people, to impose upon mankind and enhance the price of an indifferent bird, have artificially raised the hinder part of the wattle, filled it up with cork, and wired it in with fine wire, in such a manner as not to be easily perceptible, especially to gentlemen who are not adepts in the Fancy.

We now come to consider the properties of the head, which are its length, its narrowness, and its flatness. When a Carrier has a long, narrow head, and a very flat skull, it is much admired, and if otherwise it is said to be barrel-headed.

The last three properties are those of the eye, which ought to be broad, round, and of an equal thickness ; for if one part of the eye be thinner than the rest, it's said to be pinch-eyed, which is deemed a very great imperfection ; whereas, if it has the contrary properties, it is said to have a rose-eye, which is very valuable.

To these, some add the distance which is between the hinder part of the wattle and the edge of the eye ; but I cannot allow this to be a property, because when a Carrier comes to be three or four years old, if the eye is broad and the wattle large, they must of necessity meet ; the distance therefore seems to be rather a property of the Horseman, of which more in its proper place.

Another distinguishing mark of a Carrier is the length and thinness of its neck, which some call a property ; and it must be allowed to add a very great beauty to this bird, especially considering the breadth of its chest.

Its feather is chiefly black or dun, though there are likewise blues, whites, and peds of each feather, but the black and dun answer best the foregoing properties ; yet the blues and blue peds are generally esteemed for their scarcity, though they will not usually come up to the properties of the foregoing feathers.

The original of these pigeons came from Bazora, in Persia, being sometimes brought by shipping, and sometimes in the caravans ; hence, by some ignorant people, they are called buffories.

This city is situate about two miles distant from a river called Xat Arab, which is formed by the meeting of the two great rivers Tigris and Euphrates ; near this place is a small house, like a hermitage, dedicated to Iza ben Mariam, that is, Jesus the son of Mary, in passing which place, the Mohammedans themselves very devoutly offer up their prayers. There is likewise a considerable quantity of land, whose revenues belong to this chapel.

We come now to give an account of the name which is given to this pigeon; and it is called a Carrier because it is frequently made use of to carry a letter from one place to another. And such is the admirable cunning or sagacity of this bird, that though you carry them hoodwinked twenty or thirty miles—nay, I have known them to be carried threescore or a hundred, and there turned loose—they will immediately hasten to the place where they were bred. The Dutch call this pigeon *bagadat*, I suppose from a corruption of the name of the city Bagdad, which was formerly old Babylon which Nimrod built, because they judge this pigeon in its way from Bazora to be brought through that city.

In Turkey they call them *bagatins* or *couriers*, and the Turks and Persians make a common practice of breeding this sort of pigeons in their *seraglios*, where there is one whose business it is to feed and train these birds for the use afterwards designed, which they do in this manner: When a young one flies very hard at home, and is come to its full strength, they carry it in a basket, or otherwise, about half a mile from home, and there they turn it out; after this they will carry it a mile, then two, four, eight, ten, twenty, and so on, till at length they will return from the farthest parts of the kingdom. This practice is of admirable use, for every bashaw has generally a basket full of these pigeons sent him from the grand *seraglio*, and in case of any insurrection or other emergent occasion, he braces a letter under the wings of a pigeon, whereby its flight is not in the least incommoded, and immediately turns it loose; but for fear of their being shot or struck by a hawk, they generally dispatch five or six, so that by this means dispatches are sent in a more safe and speedy method than could possibly be otherwise contrived.

N.B.—If a pigeon be not practiced when young, the best of them will fly but very indifferently, and may very possibly be lost.

Lithgow in his travels gives the following remarkable account. After having told us of pigeons that in forty-eight hours would carry a letter from Babylon to Aleppo, which is thirty days' journey, he proceeds thus: "The city Ptolemais was besieged by the French and Venetian armies, and was ready to fall into their hands, when the soldiers beheld a pigeon flying over them to the city, who thereupon set up so sudden and so great a shout, that down fell the poor airy post with her letter, which, being read, was found to contain that the sultan was coming towards them with an army sufficient to raise the siege, and would be with them in three days. The Christians having learnt this, sent away the pigeon with another letter to this effect, that they should see to their safety, for that the sultan had such other important affairs as rendered it impossible that he should come to their relief. Upon the reception of this letter the city was immediately surrendered to the Christians. Upon the third day the sultan arrived according to his promise, but perceiving how matters went, returned again with his army."

That passage of making the pigeon fall to the ground by the shout of the soldiers, seems a little too much to savor of Romish superstition; for it appears a little unphilosophical to imagine that the air could be so far broke by a shout as to render the strong pinions of so swift a bird useless.

Ovid likewise, in his "Book of Metamorphoses," tells us that Taurosthenes, by a pigeon stained with purple, gave notice of his victory at the Olympic games, the very same day on which he gained it, to his father at Ægina.

Willoughby also in his "Ornithology," and with that I shall conclude the account of this bird, produces the example of the ancients in making use of pigeons for the conveyance of letters; thus Hiritius and Brutus at the siege of Modena, by means of pigeons, held a mutual correspondence with each other.

COLUMBA TABELLARIA MINOR.

The Horseman.

This pigeon in shape and make very much resembles the Carrier, only it is smaller in all its properties, viz., somewhat less in body, shorter necked, the protuberant flesh upon the beak smaller, as likewise that round the eye, so that there remains a larger space or distance between the wattle and the eye in this pigeon than in the Carrier. They are generally more inclined to be barrel-headed, and their eye somewhat pinched.

It is to this day a matter of dispute whether this be an original pigeon, or whether it be not a bastard strain, bred between a Carrier and a Tumbler, or a Carrier and a Pouter, and so bred over again from a Carrier, and the oftener it is thus bred, the stouter the Horseman becomes.

The only thing that seems inclinable to favor the opinion, that they are original, is a strain of this kind brought over from Scanderoon, which will fly very great lengths and very swift; but still the answer readily occurs that they may be bred originally the same way at Scanderoon, and so transmitted us; however, "non nostrum est inter vos tantas componere lites,"—that is, "we shan't take upon us to determine such controversies as these."

There are of this kind of all manner of feathers; but the blue and blue pieds are most noted to be genuine and good, and if flown are very good breeders.

These are one of the sorts of pigeons that are chiefly made use of in England for the carriage of letters, or flying of wagers, because those that are possessed of the true original Carriers, which are at present very scarce here, pay too dear, and have too great a value for them to risk their being lost upon every trifling wager.

These pigeons, when regularly flown twice on a day, that is, turned out alone and put upon wing without any others,

will fly very large circumferences, so that after they have made a tour or two round your own house they will fly four or five miles out at length, and so maintain the circuit for an hour or two. This the Fanciers call going an end, and is what Daniel Moggs, who was was of the older Fanciers, meant, when he jocularly used to bid his pigeons maintain their length.

This practice is of admirable service to them when they come to be trained for the homing part.

COLUMBA TABELLARIA MINIMA.

The Dragoon.

This pigeon is absolutely and without dispute a bastard strain, being bred originally from a Horseman to a Tumbler, and by matching their breed often to the Horseman, they will obtain a tolerable degree of stoutness.

This pigeon is a very good breeder, and as they are somewhat less than a Horseman, are reckoned lighter and more expeditious in their flight for ten or twenty miles ; but the Horseman, if good, will generally outdo them at a greater length. They ought to be flown and trained like the foregoing.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA BATAVIÆ.

The Dutch Cropper.

This pigeon seems to be originally Dutch, being naturally thick ; and its name is derived from a large bag, or crop of wind, which they carry under their beak, and can at pleasure either raise or depress. They are thick-bodied and short ; their legs are likewise thick, short, and feathered down to their feet ; their crop is large, but always hang low ; the feathers on their thighs hang loose, whereby they are said to be flag-thighed ; their legs stand wide, and they seldom

play upright; they are gravel-eyed, and are generally very bad feeders; therefore, as soon as they have fed off their soft meat, it is proper to put their young ones under a pair of small Runts, Dragons, or Pouting-horsemen, which may be kept as nurses for the purpose.

There are all sorts of feathers in this pigeon, and the Dutch in breeding it take a very great care; for as soon as they have fed off their soft meat, they put their young ones under others to nurse, and then separate their old ones, placing them in different coops, and feeding them high with hemp or rapeseed for a month, then turning them together, and by being very hearty and salacious, they breed pigeons with very good properties; from whence we may observe, that would mankind be alike abstemious, their progeny might be more complete both in body and mind.

These are the pigeons that are most apt to gorge, if not kept constantly supplied with meat and water.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA ANGLICANA.

The English Pouter.

This pigeon, which was first bred in England, and is therefore called the English Pouter, is originally a mixed breed between a Horseman and a Cropper. Experience teaches us it will add a wonderful beauty to this bird, and raise in it the five following properties:

1. Length of body;
2. Length of legs;
3. Neatness of crop;
4. Slenderness of girt;
5. Beauty in feather.

1. As to the length of body, the longer they are from the apex of the beak to the end of the tail, the more the pigeon is esteemed. I have seen one that measured this way near

twenty inches, although seventeen or eighteen is reckoned a very good length.



POUTERS.

2. The length of the leg is the next thing to be examined in a Pouter, *i. e.*, from the upper joint of the thigh in sight, to the end of the toe-nail; and in this property some pigeons have been very considerable, wanting a mere trifle of seven inches, yet the bird that produces six and a half or three-quarters must be allowed to be a very good one.

3. The next property to be considered is the crop, which ought to be large and round, especially towards the beak, filling behind the neck, so as to cover the shoulders and tie neatly off at the shoulders, and form a perfect globe.

4. The smaller the girt the better, because by this means a contrast of beautiful shape is given to the whole bird.

5. The last thing that is generally allowed as a property in a Pouter is the feather, and indeed its plumage affords a very great variety.

The Pies are most universally esteemed ; and under these may be ranked the Blue-pied, the Black-pied, the Red-pied, and the Yellow-pied, each of which advance in their worth according as they answer best the foregoing properties ; for instance, if the Blue-pied and Black-pied are equal in the measure of the other properties, the Black-pied will be reckoned the best pigeon, on the account of the feather, and the Yellow-pied, if equal, better than any.

Before we leave this head of feathers, we must take notice how a Pouter ought to be pied ; and, in the first place, the chop ought to be white, girt round with a shining green, intermixed with the color with which he is pied. By the chop is meant the front part of the crop, and this white ought by no means to go behind the neck, for then it is said to be ring-headed.

2. He ought to have a bib or round patch of the same color with which he is pied coming down from under his chop, and falling upon the chap, which makes it the shape of a half-moon ; but if this bib be wanting, he is said to be swallow-throated.

3. His head, neck, and back ought to be of one uniform color, and the tail the same ; and if the pigeon be Blue-pied, he ought to have two bars or streaks of black across the lower part of both wings ; but if these happen to be of a brown color, he is said to be kite-barred, which is not so valuable.

4. The shoulder or pinion of the wing ought to be mottled with white, lying round in the shape of a rose ; this is called a rose-pinion, and is reckoned the best, though but very few arise to be complete in this property ; but if the pinion runs with a large patch of white to the outer edge of the wing, he is said to be lawn-sleeved.

5. His thighs ought to be clean white, though sometimes the joints of the knees will be edged round with another color, but let it fall here, or on any other part of the thigh, he is foul-thighed.

6. The nine flight feathers of the wing ought to be white, otherwise he is said to be foul-flighted; and if only the external feather of the wing be of the color of the body, it is called sword-flighted or sworded.

Besides the five properties before mentioned, there is another, which, though not generally allowed, will be found to be one of the best,—I mean the carriage, under which I comprise the following heads :

1. The crop ought to be so far filled with wind as to show its full extent, without buffing or being slack-winded, which are both esteemed very great faults. The pigeon that buffes, fills his crop so full of wind that it is thereby strained in such a manner that he is ready to fall backwards, because he can't readily discharge the confined air which renders him uneasy and unwieldly ; and many a good thing has, by this means, either fallen into the street, or become a prey to those fatal enemies of the Fancy,—the cats. The other extreme is being slack-winded, so that he shows little or no crop, and appears not much better than an ill-shaped Runt.

2. The second beauty in carriage is their playing upright, with a fine tail, well-spread like a fan, without scraping the ground therewith, or tucking it between their legs ; neither should they set up the feathers on their rump when they play, which is called rumping.

3. The last beauty of carriage in a Pouter is to stand close with his legs, without straddling, and keep the shoulders of his wing tight down to his body, and when he moves, to trip beautifully with his feet, almost upon his toes, without jumping, which is the quality of an Uploper.

A Pouter that would answer all these properties might be said to be perfect ; but as absolute perfection is incompatible with anything in this world, that pigeon that makes the nearest advances towards them is certainly the best.

Some have answered them so well, that I have known eight guineas refused for a single pigeon of this breed.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA LUTETIÆ VEL PARI-
SIORUM.*The Parisian Pouter.*

This pigeon was originally bred at Paris, and from thence brought to Brussels, whence it was transmitted to us. It has all the nature of a Pouter, but is generally long-cropped, and not very large; it is short-bodied, short-legged, and thick in the girth. What is chiefly admired in this bird is its feather, which is indeed very beautiful, and peculiar only to itself, resembling a fine piece of Irish stitch, being checkered with various colors in every feather, except the flight which is white; the more red it has mixed with the other colors, the more valuable it is. Some are gravel-eyed, and some bull-eyed, but it is equally indifferent which eye it has.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA SALIENS.

The Uploper.

The Uploper is a pigeon bred originally in Holland. Its make and shape agrees in every respect with the English Pouter, only it is smaller in every property. Its crop is very round, in which it generally buries its bill; its legs are very small and slender, and its toes are short and close together, on which it treads so nicely, that when moving you may put anything under the ball of its foot; it is close-thighed, plays very upright, and when it approaches the hen, generally leaps to her, with its tail spread, which is the reason the name is given to it from the Dutch word "uplopen," which signifies to leap up. These pigeons are generally all blue, white, or black, though I will not assert that there are no piers of the species. There are but few of them in England, and I have been informed that in Holland they have asked five-and-twenty guineas for a single pair of them.

COLUMBA TABELLARIT GUTTUROSA.

The Pouting-Horseman.

This pigeon is a bastard strain between the Cropper and the Horseman, and according to the number of times that their young ones are bred over from the Cropper, they are called first, second, or third bred; and the oftener they are bred over, the larger their crop proves. The reason of breeding these pigeons is to improve the strain of the Pouters, by making them close-thighed, though it is apt to make them rump from the Horseman's blood. They are a very merry pigeon upon a house, and by often dashing off are good to pitch stray pigeons that are at a loss to find their own home. They breed often and are good nurses, generally feeding their young ones well. I have known these pigeons to be six inches and six and a half in legs; they are a hearty pigeon, and, give them but meat and water, need very little other attendance. Some of them will home ten or twenty miles.

COLUMBA REVOLVENS.

The Tumbler.

This bird is so called from an innate faculty peculiar to this species, which is their tumbling in the air, and which they effect by throwing themselves over backward, after the same manner that the most expert artists in tumbling perform what they call the back-spring.

A Tumbler is a very small pigeon, short-bodied, full-breasted, thin-necked, spindle-beaked, and a short button-head, and the irides of the eye of a bright pearl color.

The Dutch Tumbler is much of the same make, but larger; often feathered-legged, and more jowler-headed, with a thin flesh or skin round the eye, not unlike a very sheer Dragon; some people do not esteem them on this account, though I have known very good ones of the Dutch breed, not any-

ways inferior to what they call the English. Others have remarked that they are apt to tumble too much, and to lose ground, that is, sink beneath the rest of the flight, which is a very great fault; but I have observed the same by the English, and am apt to believe that most of the extraordinary feathers have been produced by mixing with the Dutch breed, for it is generally observed that the English Tumblers are chiefly black, blue, or white.

This pigeon affords a very great variety of colors in its plumage, as blacks, blues, whites, reds, yellows, duns, silvers, and, in short, a pleasant mixture of all these colors with the white. But amongst all, there is a mixture of three colors, vulgarly called an almond, perhaps from the quantity of almond-colored feathers that are found in the hackle; others call it an ermine, I suppose from the black spots that are generally in it; however, I am sensible the name is not compatible to the term so called in heraldry, which is only white spotted with black; yet, as the gentlemen of the Fancy have assigned this name to this motley color, I shall not quarrel with them about a term. If the three colors run through the feathers of the flight and tail, it is reckoned a very good almond, or ermine, and is much valued.

N.B.—An ermine Tumbler never comes to the full beauty of its feather till it has twice moulted off, and when it grows very old will decline, till it runs away to a downright mot-tle or other color.

These pigeons, by their flight, afford an admirable satisfaction to those gentlemen of the Fancy that have time to attend them and make their observations; for, besides the pleasure they afford by their tumbling, which is very considerable, they will rise to an immense height in the air, so that sometimes the eye can scarcely follow them. I have frequently lost sight of them, though they have been almost perpendicular over my head, and the day has been very clear and serene; yet, by a fixed regard of the place where

I lost them (for they never ramble far like the Horseman, and, if good when they are used to each other, a flight of a dozen will keep so close together that you may cover them all with a large handkerchief), I have at length perceived them, but so small that they appeared no bigger than a sparrow.

At this height they will keep two, three, four, and sometimes five hours together ; nay, I have heard it frequently asserted that there have been pigeons of this breed which have flown nine hours when they are up at their pitch. The better sort seldom or never tumble, choosing rather to afford you that diversion when they are more in sight, tumbling very often at the first beginning to rise, and again when they are coming down to pitch.

I now come to the method of raising a flight of Tumblers ; and, in the first place, they ought, if you have the convenience, to be kept in a loft by themselves, not having any acquaintance, if possible, with your other pigeons ; for, if they are used to fly with others, it will make them sink their flight when they observe others skimming in the air below them.

Secondly. They ought to be turned out and put upon flight only once a day at most, and that by themselves, after being well acquainted with your house. The morning is the best time for this diversion ; and, after they are come down, throw them a little hempseed or rape and canary to entice them in, and so keep them confined until the next day.

Thirdly. If possible, get one or two that have been used to flying high, for they will train your young ones up the sooner.

Besides these things, the fanciers have observed particular seasons when a Tumbler will make a more extravagant flight than ordinary, as, for instance, when she sits upon eggs, and a few days after having fed off the soft meat. I can't find

any philosophical reason to be given for this, yet, as it is confirmed by observation, I thought it worth taking notice of.

Another time when they will make a very extraordinary flight is when you observe ravens, crows, or any other birds, wantonly playing at a great height in the air. This may be very easily accounted for, there being at such a time something, in the temperament of the air, suitable to the genius of those birds that delight in the upper regions of the atmosphere.

Here I must advise the fancier not to turn out his Tumblers when there appear any signs of a rising fog, for by this means the sight of their habitation is intercepted, and many a good flight lost forever.

A high wind will likewise drive them too far from home, so that, if they are not entirely lost, they may lie out all night, and so be exposed to the cats or various other accidents.

Lastly. Never turn out your hen Tumbler when she is with egg, for, besides that she is at that time sick and unfit to fly, so likewise by her long flight she may drop her egg—an instance of which I have known—and so prevent the increase of your breed.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA LABRONIS SEU PISARUM.

The Leghorn Runt.

The Leghorn Runt is a stately, large pigeon, seven inches or better in the legs, close feathered, and fast fleshed, extremely broad-chested, and very short in the back. He carries his tail, when he walks, somewhat turned up like a duck; but when he plays, he tucks it down. His neck is longer than any other pigeon, which he carries bending like a goose or a swan. He is goose-headed, and his eye lies hollow in his head, with a thin skin round it much like the

Dutch Tumbler, but broader ; his beak is very short for so large a bird, with a small wattle on it, and the upper chap a little bending over the under.

They are a very tender bird, and great care ought to be taken of their young ones. I was offered seventeen shillings for a single cock, and Sir Dolbey Thomas would have given me a guinea and a half for the same bird. There are few true original ones of this breed in England ; and, if matched to a Spanish Runt, they will breed a very large pigeon, closer in flesh and feather than the Spanish Runt, and will breed much faster. I have killed of their young ones, which, when on the spit, were full as large as middling spring fowls ; where note that these, and all other runts, increase in their bulk till they are three or four years old.

As to their feather, they are various, but the best that I have seen were either black or red mottled.

There is a vast difference in these birds, and I have seen very bad ones, that have been brought from Leghorn, little better than a common runt ; however, this is the genuine true description of the Leghorn Runt, which is more valued than any other sort of runts.

This pigeon was originally bred either at Pisæ in the Duke of Tuscany's dominions, or at Pisæ in Peloponesus, and from thence brought to Leghorn, and so transmitted to us ; but I rather judge the latter, because it answers the description of the pigeon which Willoughby in his "Ornithology" calls "Columba Turcica seu Persica," the Turkish or Persian pigeon.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA HISPANIÆ.

The Spanish Runt.

This pigeon, as may readily be perceived by its name, comes originally from Spain ; and is the longest bodied of all pigeons ; I have seen them three and twenty inches long, from the apex of the beak to the extremity of the tail, they

are thick and short legged, loose feathered, and loose fleshed, and do not walk erect as the Leghorn Runt does.

There are of all feathers in this kind of bird, but being short-legged, are apt to sit too heavy upon their eggs, and by that means break them ; to prevent which inconvenience, the best way is to put chalk eggs under them, and set their eggs under a pair of smaller runts or Pouting Horseman, which are more kindly breeders ; not forgetting to give your Spanish Runts a pair of young ones, at the time when they ought to hatch, that they may feed of their soft meat, which they always prepare against that time.

I have seen a pigeon very much resembling the Spanish Runt, with longer legs, but I rather take these runts to come from Mexico, Peru, or some other parts of the Spanish West Indies.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA FRISLÆ.

The Friesland Runt.

This pigeon comes from Friesland, and is one of the larger sort of middle-sized runts ; its feathers stand all reverted, and I cannot see for what it can be admired except for its ugliness.

There are other sorts of runts, as the Roman Runt which is so big and heavy it can hardly fly ; and the Smyrna Runt, which is middle-sized and feather-footed. I have seen the feathers growing on the outside of each foot, that they look as if they carried wings on their feet, I have measured some of these feathers which have been four inches and a half long ; these birds are very apt to drag their eggs and young ones out of the nest, if not kept clean and dry. To these we may add the common runt, which are kept purely for the dish, and generally in locker holes in inn yards or other places, and are well known to everybody ; they are good feeders and therefore good nurses for any of the more curious sorts of pigeons.

The following sorts of pigeons are generally deemed and called Toys by the gentlemen of the fancy.

COLUMBA MACULATA.

The Spot.

This pigeon is about the size of a small runt, and was first transmitted to us from Holland, but from whence the original of this breed came, I can not as yet learn; they have a spot upon their heads, just above their beak, and from thence take their name, the feathers of the tail are of the same color with the spot, and the rest of their body is all white. The spot and tail in some of these pigeons is black, in others red, in others yellow; and I have been informed that there are some blue; they look pretty when they spread their tail and fly, and always breed their young ones of the same color.

COLUMBA RIDENS.

The Laughter.

This pigeon is about the size of a middling runt, and much of the same make, and I am informed has a very bright pearl eye, almost white; as for its feather, it is red mottled; and some tell me they have seen blues. They are said to come from the Holy Land near Jerusalem. When a cock plays to his hen he has a hoarse coo, not unlike the gurgling of a bottle of water, when poured out, and then makes a noise, which very much imitates a soft laughter, and from thence this bird has its name.

COLUMBA TIBICEN.

The Trumpeter.

The Trumpeter is a bird much about the size of a Laughter, and very runtishly made; they are generally pearl-eyed, black-mottled, very feather-footed and legged, turn crowned like the Nun, and sometimes like the Finnikin, but much

larger, which I take to be the better sort, as being more melodious; but the best characteristic to know them, is a tuft of feathers growing at the root of the beak, and the larger this tuft is, the more they are esteemed. The reason of their name, is from their imitating the sound of a trumpet after playing; though I once inquired of a German, who brought pigeons over to sell here, the reason of their being so called, and as he told me, he believed, was that they were first brought to Holland by a drummer or trumpeter, and so were called Trumpeters from him. *Credat Judæus Appela*, let who will swallow this gudgeon.

The more salacious they are, the more they will trumpet; for which reason, if you have a mind to be often entertained with their melody, you must give them good store of hemp seed; otherwise they will seldom trumpet much, except in spring, when they are naturally more salacious than usual.

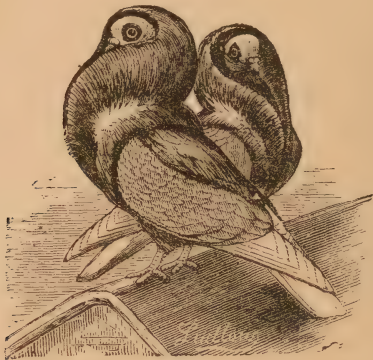
COLUMBA CYPRIA CUCULLATA.

The Jacobin Pigeon.

The Jacobin, or as it is vulgarly called for shortness, the Jack, is, if true, the smallest of all pigeons, and the smaller still the better; it has a range of feathers inverted quite over the hinder part of the head, and reaching down on each side of the neck to the shoulders of the wings, which forms a kind of a friar's hood; from hence this pigeon has its name Jacobin, because the fathers of that order all wear hoods to cover their bald crowns; hence the upper part of this range of feathers is called the hood, and the more compact these feathers are, and the closer to the head, so much the more this bird is esteemed. The lower part of this range of feathers is called by us the chain, but the Dutch call it the cravat, the feathers of this chain ought to be long and close, so that if you strain the neck a little, by taking hold of the bill, the two sides will lap over each other in some of the

best; but there are but very few now to be found in England complete.

The Jacobin ought to have a very short bill, the shorter the better, and a clean pearl eye.



JACOBS.

As for the feather, there are reds, yellows, blues, blacks, and mottles; but be the feather what it will, they ought to have a clean white head, white flight, and white tail.

Of these pigeons some are feather-legged and footed, others are not, and both sorts are equally esteemed, according to the various inclination of different fanciers.

COLUMBA CUCULLATA MINOR.

The Capuchin.

This pigeon is in shape and make very like the Jacobin, and has its name like the former from another set of hooded ecclesiastics.

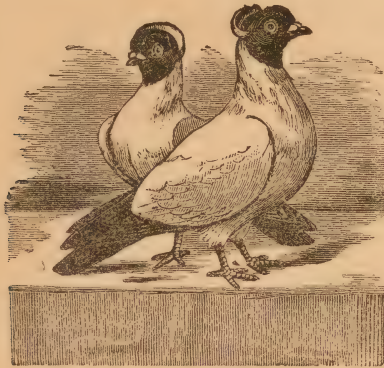
It is something larger in body than the Jack, its beak longer, it has a tolerable hood but no chain, it is in feather and other properties the same. Some will assert it to be a

distinct species, but I am more inclinable to imagine it is only a bastard breed from a Jacobin and another pigeon; however, thus far I am sure, that a Jack and another will breed a bird so like it, as will puzzle the authors of this assertion to distinguish it, from what they call their separate species.

COLUMBA VESTALIS.

The Nun.

The Ruff should in proper order have been next inserted, as being nearest in kind to the two foregoing; but we choose rather to introduce the Nun in this place, that she might be



NUNS.

as near as possible to those venerable sons of the church, who generally take a great delight to associate themselves with the female saints.

The Nun, therefore, is a bird somewhat larger than a Jacobin, her plumage is very particular, and she seems entirely to take her name from it, her being as it were covered with a veil.

Her body is all white, her head, tail, and six of her flight

feathers ought to be entirely black, red, and yellow ; and whatever feathers vary from this are said to be foul, though the best of them all will sometimes be apt to breed a few foul feathers, and those that are but little so, though not so much valued, will often breed as clean-feathered birds as those that are not.

A Nun ought likewise to be pearl-eyed, and to have a white hood or tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, which the larger it is, adds a considerable beauty to the bird.

COLUMBA GALETEA.

The Helmet.

This pigeon is much about the size of a Nun, or somewhat bigger. The head, tail, and flight feathers of the wings, are always of one color, as black, red, yellow ; and I have been informed there are some blue, and all the rest of the body white, so that the chief difference between them and the Nun is, that they have no hood on the hinder part of the head, and are generally gravel-eyed.

They are called Helmets from their heads being covered with a plumage which is distinct in color from the body, and appears somewhat like a helmet to cover the head.

COLUMBA CUCULLATA RUDIS.

The Ruff.

This pigeon is larger than the true original Jacobin, though in shape and make much the same.

It has a longer beak, the irides of the eyes in some are of a pearl color, in others of a gravel color, the feathers of its hood and chain are much longer, though the chain does not come down so low to the shoulders of the wings, neither are they near so compact and close as the others, but are apt to blow about with every blast of wind, fall more backward

off the head, and lie in a rough confused manner, whence the pigeon has its name.

The strain of Jacobins has been much vitiated by matching them to this pigeon, in order to improve their chain by the length of the Ruff's feathers, but instead of this, the Jack is bred larger, longer beaked, looser in its hood and chain, and in short worsted in all its original properties.

COLUMBA IN GYRUM FLECTENS.

The Finnikin.

This pigeon is in make and shape very like a common Runt, and much about the same size. The crown of its head is turned much after the manner of a snake's head; it is gravel-eyed and has a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the crown, which runs down its back not unlike a horse's main; it is clean-footed and legged and always black, and blue pied. When it is salacious, it rises over its hen and turns round three or four times, flapping its wings, then reverses and turns as many the other way.

Were a gentleman in the country to stock a dove-house with this sort of pigeons, their whimsical gestures might engage the country people to imagine he kept an enchanted castle.

Some people disapprove of this sort of pigeons as apt to vitiate their other strains by making a hen squat by these antic gestures; but in fact they are no more dangerous that way than any other breed when salacious.

COLUMBA CIRCUMAGENS.

The Turner.

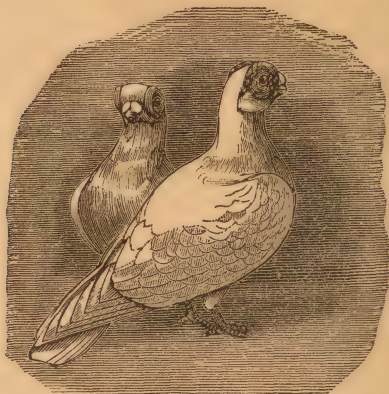
This pigéon is in many respects like the Finnikin, except that when it is salacious and plays to the female it turns only one way, whereas the other turns both; it has no tuft on the hinder part of the head; neither is it snake-headed.

COLUMBA NUMIDICA.

The Barb, or Barbary Pigeon.

This pigeon is in size somewhat larger than a Jacobin, it is called a Barb for shortness instead of the Barbary pigeon, being originally brought from that country.

It has a very short beak like a bullfinch, with a very small wattle, and a naked circle of tuberos red flesh round

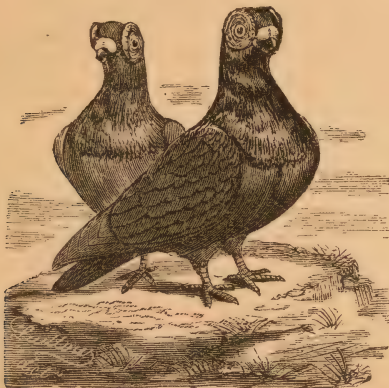


WHITE BARBS.

the eyes, whose irides are of a pearl color. The broader and redder the flesh is, the more the bird is valued, though it is very narrow when the bird is young, and does not come to its full growth until they are four years old. Some of them have a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, somewhat like a Finnikin, and others not.

Mr. Willoughby, in his description of this bird, is guilty of a very great mistake, in imagining the tuberos flesh to be white in some birds of this kind, which it never is, though

it will grow pale when the bird is sick ; but when it recovers, always reassumes its wonted redness.



BLACK BARBS.

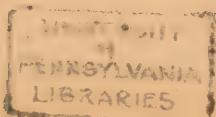
Their original color is either black or dun, though there are Pieds of both these feathers, but they are bred from the Barb and Mahomet, and are not so much valued.

COLUMBA NUMIDICI ALBA.

The Mahomet.

This pigeon is no more in reality than a white Barb, which makes the red tuberosus flesh round the eyes look very beautiful. All that can further be added with regard to this pigeon, is to assign the reason, why this name of Mahomet is given to it, which I take to be this.

Mahomet, the imposter prophet of the Turkish religion, and author of the Alcoran, is reputed by some authors, and those of good note, as Scaliger, Grotius, and Sionita, to have made use of the following stratagem, to induce the credulous Arabians to believe that he conversed frequently with the



Holy Spirit, and received from his mission as a prophet, and the new doctrines he was about to broach.

This imposture he carried on in this manner ; he took a young pigeon of this kind which we are now describing, and which by the immaculate whiteness of its plumage, was not an improper emblem of purity and the celestial dove : this bird he brought up by hand, and made it very tame and familiar, till at last he taught it to eat meat out of his ear, which he might easily do, especially if he fed it with rape or hemp seed there, which all pigeons are naturally fond of, till at last the pigeon would come frequently to search for its food there. This bird he imposed upon the Arabians to be the Holy Ghost, whispering the dictates of the Almighty, and teaching him the precepts of his new law, and from hence, this bird is called after him by the name of Mahomet.

Since we are thus entered into the story of this imposter, it may not be amiss to amuse our readers, with a stratagem an Arabian girl made use of to prove the truth of his pretended mission ; the story as related by D. Prideaux in his life of Mahomet runs thus.

Three years before his death, he led forth his army against Chaibar, a city inhabited by the Arabs of the Jewish religion, who being overthrown by him in battle, he besieged their city and took it by storm. And here those who are magnifiers of Ali, tell this miracle of him, that in the assault Sampson like, he plucked up one of the gates of the city (which was of that weight saith Abul Feda, that eight other men could not move it), and held it before him for a shield to defend himself against the beseiged, till the city was taken. On Mahomet's entering the town, he took up his quarters in the house of Hareth, one of the principal inhabitants of the place ; whose daughter Zainab making ready a shoulder of mutton for his supper, poisoned it ; and here those who are for ascribing miracles to Mahomet, tells us that the shoulder of mutton spoke to him, and discovered that it was

poisoned ! but it seems if it did so, it was too late to do him any good. For Basher, one of his companions, falling on too greedily to eat it, fell down dead on the place. And although Mahomet had not immediately the same fate, because not liking the taste, he spit out again what he had taken into his mouth, yet he let down enough to do his business ; for he was never well after this supper, and at three years end died of it. The maid being asked why she did this, answered that she had a mind to make a trial whether he were a prophet or no. For were he a prophet, said she, he could certainly know that the meat was poisoned ; and therefore would receive no harm from it ; but if he were not a prophet she thought she should do the world good service in ridding it of so wicked a tyrant.

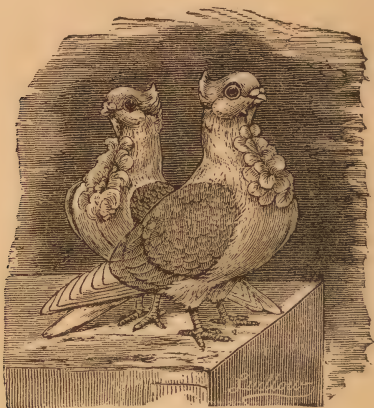
During his sickness, he much complained of the bit which he had taken at Chaibar, telling those that came to visit him, that he had felt the torments of it in his body ever since, and that at times it brought on him very dolorous pains, and that then it was going to break his very heart strings. And when among others, there came to see him the mother of Basher who died on the spot, of that poison, he cried out, O mother of Basher, the veins of my heart are now breaking of the bit which I eat with your son at Chaibar : so that it seems notwithstanding the intimacy which he pretended with the angel Gabriel, and the continual revelations which he bragged that he received from him, he could not be preserved from thus perishing by the hands of a silly girl.

COLUMBA FIMBRIATA.

The Turbit.

The reason why this pigeon is named by the English I cannot by any means account for ; the low Dutch call it cort-beke, or short-bill, upon account of the shortness of its beak.

It is a small pigeon very little bigger than a Jacobin, its beak is very short like a partridge, and the shorter the better ; it has a round button head, and the feathers on the breast open and reflect both ways, standing out almost like fringe or the frill of a modern shirt ; this is called the *purle*, and the more of it the bird has, the more it is admired.



TURBITS.

As for the feather, their tail and the back of the wings ought to be of one entire color, as blue, black, red, yellow, dun and checkered ; the flight feathers and all the rest of the body should be white. They are a very pretty light pigeon, and if used to fly when young, some of them make very good flyers. I have seen a flight of them kept by one Girton that would mount almost high as Tumblers.

There are of this sort all white, black, and blue, which by a mistake are often called and taken for owls.

COLUMBA BUBO NOMINATA.

The Owl.

This pigeon is in make and shape like the former, except



BLUE OWLS.

that the upper chap of its beak is hooked over like an owl's, from whence it has its name.

Its plumage is always entirely white, blue, or black.

COLUMBA TREMULA LATICAUDA.

The Broad-tailed Shaker.

This pigeon has a beautiful, long, thin neck, which bends like the neck of a swan, leaning towards the back; it has a frequent tremulous motion, or shaking in the neck, especially when salacious, which is the reason why they are called Shakers. It has a full breast, a very short back, and a tail consisting of a great number of feathers, seldom less than four-and-twenty, which it spreads in a very elegant manner,

like the tail of a turkey cock, and throws it up so much that the head and tail frequently meet.

They are called by some Fantails, and I once saw one that had six and thirty feathers in its tail; but when they have so many feathers it is apt to make them lop their tails, and not let them meet with their head, which is a very great fault.



FANTAIL.

They are most commonly all white, though I have seen both black, blue, red, and yellow pids, but the white ones have generally the best carriage in their tail and head; there are two sorts of these broad-tailed shakers, the one having a neck much longer and more slender than the other, but the longest neck is the most beautiful and the most esteemed.

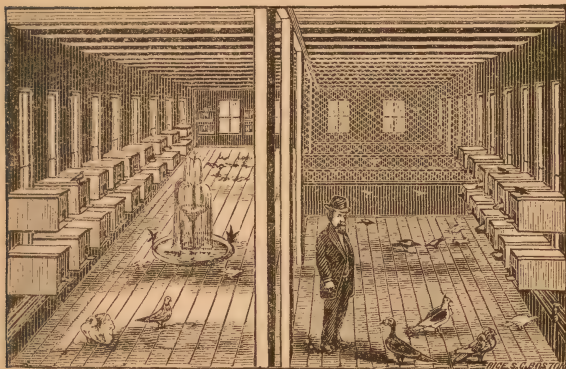
COLUMBA TREMULA ARCTICAUDA.

The Narrow-tailed Shaker.

This pigeon is reckoned by some a distinct species, though I am apt to believe it is only a bastard breed between the foregoing and some other bird. Its neck is shorter and thicker, its back longer, the feathers of its tail are not so much spread out, but fall as it were double, lying over one another, and the tail generally lops very much.

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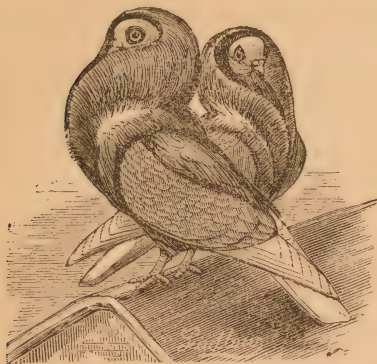
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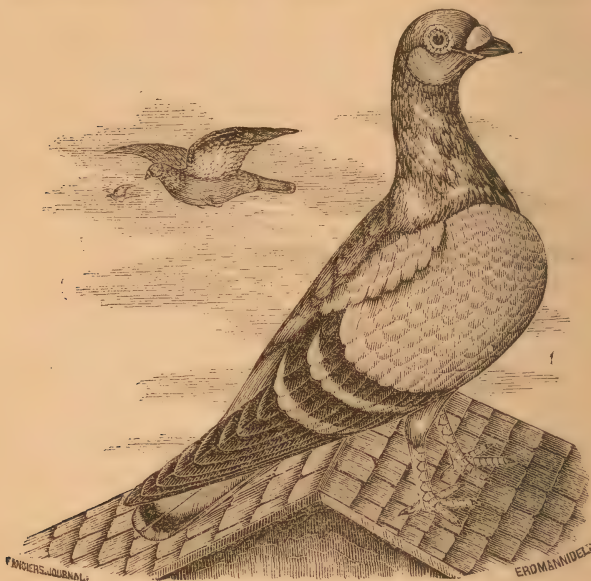
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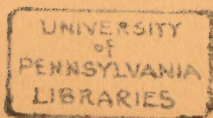


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